GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1566
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Impact of Wi-Fi
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received study reports by Scientific Groups and Institutions relating to the harmful effects of Wi-Fi on humans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to minimise the impact of Wi-Fi?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Madam, The electromagnetic frequency (EMF) used in Wi-Fi technology lies in the Radio Frequency (3 KHz to 300 GHz) part of electromagnetic spectrum. World Health Organization (WHO), as part of its charter to protect public health and in response to public concern over health effects of electromagnetic frequency (EMF) exposure, established the International EMF Project in 1996 to assess the scientific evidence of possible health effects of EMF in the frequency range from 0 to 300 GHz.

Since the commencement of the EMF Project, over 50 national authorities have been involved. Apart from the national authorities the project is overseen by 8 international organizations and independent collaborating institutions and together they review scientific information related to public and occupational health, and environmental management of the EMF issue. While summarizing the key points on health effect of EMF radiation, WHO website mentions the following:

"â€¦.Despite extensive research, to date there is no evidence to conclude that exposure to low level electromagnetic fields is harmful to human health..."

It would also be pertinent to mention that World Health Organisation (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 studies, conducted around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has concluded: "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to EMF radiation". Since the effects on human beings are to be studied over a long period of time, further studies are going on around the world.

(c) & (d) A joint initiative has been launched by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under Department of Science & Technology and Department of Telecommunications (DoT), to study possible impact of EMF radiation exposure from mobile towers and handsets in the non-ionizing band (300MHZ to 3 GHZ ; which includes the frequency used for Wi-Fi technology) on life. i.e. Humans, Living Organisms, Flora & Fauna and Environment.
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